

Housing Plan to Be Reviewed

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LYNDHURST -- After two postponements within a week, the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission is expected to approve a resolution on the construction of affordable housing within its district next month.

The emergency plan attempts to limit further development in the Meadowlands district before it adopts new zoning changes governing where affordable housing could be located. It implements a May 21 state appellate court ruling that determined the agency, which covers 14 municipalities in Bergen and Hudson counties, must do more than merely assist the towns in meeting their state-mandated affordable-housing requirements.

The court also directed the commission to consider whether development should continue in areas where it controls zoning before adopting new policies on affordable housing.

The directive resulted from two separate lawsuits filed in state Superior Court in 2004 by Robbinsville-based New Jersey Builders Association and Cherry Hill-based Fair Share Housing Center. The lawsuits argued that state agencies such as the Meadowlands Commission and the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority must utilize their land-use powers to zone for housing units for poor families.

An Aug. 22 meeting and another on Monday were canceled because of scheduling conflicts and commissioners' requests for additional time to review the resolutions on the agenda, said Sheri Hensley, an agency spokeswoman.

The delays in the adoption of the policy will not affect the production of affordable housing in the commission's district, Christopher Gale, commission spokesman, said Monday.